

## LUNATIC ASYLUMS. .

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## ONTARIO.\*

There are at present four Asylums in this Province:—1. The Provincial Lunatic Asylum at Toronto with its temporary Branch Asylum in the University Park. 2. Malden Asylum, near Amherstburg. 3. Orillia Asylum, on Lake Simcoe. 4. Rockwood Criminal Lunatic Asylum, at Kingston.

In January, 1841, the old Jail in the centre of the City of Toronto was fitted up, and opened as a temporary Lunatic Asylum. This was the first Asylum established in Upper Canada. In the course of a few years, two other buildings in the same city were occupied as Branch Asylums. The building known as the Provincial Asylum was commenced in 1845, and in January, 1850, 211 patients were transferred to it from the three temporary establishments above mentioned. This Asylum was soon found inadequate for the growing demands upon it; and the Provincial Government, in 1856, in order to provide additional accommodation for Lunatics, appropriated a large vacant cut stone building in the University Park, originally intended for a college, fitted it up as a temporary Asylum, and transferred to it some 60 or 70 patients from the main building. The building has ever since been used as a temporary Asylum, under the somewhat singular title of "The University Branch Asylum." It is immediately connected with the Provincial Asylum, and under the charge of its Medical Superintendent. The building is about two miles distant from the Provincial Asylum. As two large wings are now being added to the main Asylum, which, when completed, will provide accommodation for all the patients now in this Branch, it is probable that the latter will, ere long, be abandoned, and the patients transferred from it to the main Asylum. The main Asylum is a plain substantial building of white brick. It is well planned and well built. Two detached hospitals of the same material as the main building have recently been erected. The two wings in progress of erection are also of white brick. They have been very carefully planned with a view to ventilation and other sanitary considerations. There are about 50 acres of land attached to the Asylum.

*Malden Asylum.*

This institution was first established in 1859 as a Branch of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum. In 1861 it was created a quasi independent Asylum, and set apart for the reception of lunatics from the six nearest counties in the western part of Upper Canada. It had from the first a resident Medical Superintendent. The building was originally a Military Barrack; the greater part of it is of wood. There are about 72 acres of land belonging to the Asylum.

*Orillia Asylum.*

This institution was, in 1861, established as a Branch of the Provincial Asylum at Toronto. It has continued to serve as such up to the present time. It has, however, a resident Medical Superintendent. The building was intended for a hotel. It is of brick, and is pleasantly situated on Lake Couchiching. The ground is, however, very low, and the quantity of land connected with the Asylum, about six acres, is absurdly small.

*Rockwood Criminal Lunatic Asylum.*

In 1855 a temporary Asylum was organized in the Provincial Penitentiary for the care and treatment of male convicts becoming insane during their imprisonment. The portion of the Penitentiary buildings made to serve as a temporary Asylum was but ill adapted for the purpose. A temporary Asylum for female lunatic convicts, and dangerous female lunatics, was also established about the same time at Rockwood, near the Penitentiary. In 1857 an Act was passed authorizing the erection near the Penitentiary of a "Criminal Lunatic Asylum." (†) for the reception not only of lunatic convicts, but of other lunatics dangerous to be at large. The buildings for the Asylum were commenced at Rockwood, near Kingston Penitentiary, in September, 1859, and in March, 1865, were sufficiently far advanced to allow of the transfer to them of all the male patients, about 70, from the temporary Asylum in the Penitentiary. In the beginning of 1867 all the lunatics from the Female Temporary Asylum, about 30, were also transferred to the Rockwood building. The removal of the male patients from the temporary Asylum in the Penitentiary to the commodious and elevated new building, was attended with a very marked and gratifying improvement in the sanitary condition, both of patients and attendants. The Asylum is an imposing and massive stone building. The situation is very elevated and healthy. It stands at a distance of a few hundred yards from the shore of Lake Ontario, and commands extensive views over the lake and the surrounding country. The subjoined tables show the movements of the patients in the Provincial Asylum and in the Rockwood Asylum, since the year 1859, and in the Malden and Orillia Asylums since the first establishment of those institutions respectively:—

\* The information respecting the Asylums in Ontario and Quebec is compiled from the published reports of the Board of Inspectors of Asylums and Prisons.

† The title is unfortunate. It should have been called an "Asylum for Lunatic Criminals." A criminal lunatic is a contradiction in terms.